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PROLOGUE.

Here is one of the most dramatic novels of modern times and a distinctly American product. Based on one of the great theatrical productions of present fame, it unweaves a flood of human emotions which will sweep the reader irresistibly with it.

The prominence of both families concerned, that of the dead man, Gerald Trask, and that of the defendant, Robert Strickland, in addition to the sensational circumstances surrounding the fatal act were responsible for the attention paid to the trial by the always inquisitive public.



District Attorney Gray Watches the Proceedings Closely.

CHAPTER I.

A Human Life at Stake.

The big, gloomy trial room of the criminal branch of the supreme court, part I, was crowded to the very doors with a throng of expectant people, lawyers and law clerks, newspaper reporters and artists, business men attracted by the momentousness of the occasion, court attendants, detectives in plain clothes.



Robert Strickland on Trial For His Life.

Arbuckle, chief of the counsel for Strickland, that the friends of the dead man had engaged a press agent who had demonstrated noticeable ability in preparing the printing of stories reflecting on Robert Strickland, now on trial for his life.

For months the newspapers had displayed the details of the crime. Extra columns had carried screaming headlines concerning the new developments in the case of the people of the state of New York versus Robert Strickland. Indeed, the cause celebre had been commented on so widely that the attorneys for the defendant had moved for a change of venue, arguing that Strickland could not get a fair trial in New York county because any man picked for the jury would have heard or read something detrimental to the accused.

And so there were reasons why the multitude should be engrossed in the proceedings destined to determine whether or not Robert Strickland, active business man, should be sent to the electric chair in that bare, oblong death chamber on the bleak Hudson hillside always yawning for more victims. It was no ordinary sordid or drunken crime participated in by denizens of the vast metropolitan underworld this time. No, indeed, here was a choice morsel, a dainty tidbit, in the way of a criminal prosecution, a case where two of the best known families of the greatest American city were involved.

"Two years ago, your honor." "Fined \$250 for contempt of court," was the retort of the justice. Gradually, however, the jury box began to fill, and after No. 11 had been accepted by both the prosecutor and Counselor Arbuckle for the defense all heads craned forward as an interesting name was called by the important tones of the clerk of the court.

He glowered ominously at several newspaper reporters who he recollected had hunted him in times past, and then with that prelude accomplished thoroughly to his satisfaction he faced the court. District Attorney Gray began questioning him. "What's your name?" "John Summers."

"Mr. Summers, what is your occupation?" "Electrical engineer and manufacturer."

"Are you in business for yourself?" "Yes, sir; at 1 Madison avenue, but I no longer take active charge of my business. In a sense I have retired."

"Mr. Summers, are you opposed to capital punishment?" "No, not at all."

"Do you know Robert Strickland, the defendant in this case? Stand up, Strickland," commanded the prosecutor.

Strickland arose. It was now noted that his right arm was in a sling. "No," came the answer.

Strickland resumed his seat. "Do you know any one related to him?" continued Gray.

"No."

"Did you know Gerald Trask, for whose murder Strickland is on trial?" pressed Gray.

"No; I've often read the gentleman's name in the papers, but I never met him."

"Do you know Mrs. Trask," the widow of the murdered man?" "No."

"Do you know Stanley Glover, who was Mr. Trask's private secretary at the time of his death?" Gray paused thoughtfully.

"Glover? I'm not sure."

"Call Mr. Glover," said Gray. An attendant opened a side door and admitted a young man.

"Stanley Glover," he pronounced. "This is Mr. Glover," explained Gray.

"No; I don't know him," was the reply.

"You may retire, Mr. Glover," directed the prosecutor.

"Do you know any one associated with the district attorney's office or Mr. Arbuckle, the defendant's attorney?" "No."

"Are you familiar with the facts in this case?" "Very slightly. I don't read details of murder cases," replied Summers.

"Have you formed any opinion which would prevent you from rendering a verdict?"

"Mr. Trask responded with his habitual generosity and promptly loaned Strickland \$10,000, taking the latter's note as security. But Strickland's business didn't improve, and he decided to migrate to the west. The note was payable on June 22, two days before the murder."

"When the 22d arrived Strickland was in Cleveland, O., making arrangements for himself and family. He returned, however, on the 24th, the night of the murder, sent for Mr. Trask and took up the note. I call your attention to the fact, gentlemen, that Strickland paid the debt in cash. He was a business man. He did not pay it in check or draft, but cash! Ten thousand dollars in cash!"

"Mr. Trask had offered to let the loan stand until Strickland was on his feet again, but Strickland wouldn't hear of it. You will understand his eagerness to cancel the debt in a moment, gentlemen. It was because he had evolved a little plan whereby he could wipe out the obligation without it costing him a cent. The scheme was simple enough, gentlemen. He knew that Mr. Trask would have to keep the ten thousand in his house overnight and that he would almost certainly lock it up in the safe in the library. And what is more, gentlemen, he knew the combination to Mr. Trask's safe. Bear in mind that only two people knew the combination to that safe—Mr. Trask and Strickland."

The prosecutor's voice had risen to a pitch marked by tones of bitter denunciation. Gray was plainly strong for oratorical effect.

"But Strickland hadn't the nerve to do the job alone, so he called in an assistant. Accordingly he and his accomplice entered Mr. Trask's house a few hours after Strickland had paid over the money. The accomplice went to work on the safe and Strickland stood guard. The burglar succeeded without much difficulty in opening the safe and extracting the \$10,000, while Strickland superintended the job. Before they could escape, however, they were interrupted, first by Mrs. Trask and then by her husband. The accomplice made a hasty exit, taking the plunder with him. That was the last that was heard of the accomplice, gentlemen. Who he is or where he went we have been unable to learn." Now Gray was, literally shrieking.

"But Mr. Strickland was caught red handed, and believing, evidently, that dead men tell no tales, he shot and killed Mr. Trask in cold blood."

"There you have the story, gentlemen. Mrs. Trask, the widow of the murdered man, will tell it to you in detail. Her testimony will be corroborated by Mr. Glover, Mr. Trask's

secretary, thanks to whose bravery the assassin was disarmed and captured, and who gave us material assistance in linking up the chain of evidence against him."

"Not one of the acts is disputed. Strickland, realizing the futility of interposing a defense, has refused."

"Arbuckle rose hastily. 'I object to that,' he cried to the court. 'Counsel will not interrupt,' ordered Dinsmore. 'Strickland, I say,' went on Gray, 'has refused to make any effort to defend himself. When he was arraigned—' Arbuckle broke in again. 'I object to that.' 'Counsel will not interrupt,' repeated the judge. Gray continued: 'When he was arraigned, he pleaded guilty to the indictment of murder in the first degree; perhaps, gentlemen, you ask, if this is so, why are we here? Why is the county put to the expense of the trial? An expense which we taxpayers must meet in the end. Why must you business men be taken from your occupations—be compelled to lose your valuable time?—' 'Why is not the penalty allotted to murderers inflicted upon the defendant? And in answer to that I say to you because, gentlemen, the state is jealous of the lives of her citizens. To her existence of an individual is sacred no matter if he be depraved, degenerate, possessed of criminal instincts, dangerous to society. She will not allow even a self-confessed murderer to be put to death until twelve of his fellow citizens sitting in solemn judgment calmly, dispassionately hearing and weighing the facts, have decreed that that man shall suffer the consequences of his crime. That is why we are here today, gentlemen. 'That is why his honor has assigned such distinguished counsel to defend Strickland, and that is why before we ask you to visit upon this defendant the punishment he merits we shall by the unimpeachable testimony of eyewitnesses convince you of his guilt beyond the peradventure of a doubt. 'Unfortunately his partner in crime has made good his escape. But the greater criminal is in our hands, gentlemen. 'We can make him pay the penalty of the law. I shall take up no more of your time. The facts will speak for themselves.' Gray seated himself, mopping perspiration from his forehead. Arbuckle calmly and dispassionately opened for the defense. 'Gentlemen of the jury, when his honor assigned me to the defense of this case it seemed to me that the prosecution's theory was untenable,' he began. 'I knew Mr. Strickland by reputation, and I scouted the burglary hypothesis. This belief strengthened as I became better acquainted with Mr. Strickland. A man of superlative honor and integrity, equipped with a splendid mentality and an excellent reputation, not addicted to bad habits or expensive luxuries, devotedly attached to his wife and child—that is not the sort of man who breaks into his friend's house for the purpose of theft. 'The case seemed to me to be not nearly so clear and simple as my friend, Mr. Gray, makes it out to be. But despite my certainty that there lurked a mystery in this grim affair I could learn nothing that would aid me in substantiating my belief. As my friend has told you, Mr. Strickland has maintained throughout an obstinate, unbreakable silence. In all my years at the bar, gentlemen, I have never encountered any one who has declined so resolutely to yield to persuasion. Threats, entreaties and logic alike have left him indifferent.' Arbuckle stepped up and leaned over the jury box. 'At last I reached the conclusion that Strickland was shielding some one, most likely the unknown accomplice Strickland's motive in shielding him I endeavored to locate the members of Strickland's family. 'Judge of my surprise, gentlemen, when I learned that the defendant's wife had disappeared from home on the night of the tragedy and has not since been heard from. All my attempts to find her have been fruitless. I have been forced to believe that she took her life. I did succeed in finding Doris, the little daughter of the defendant. When you have heard her story, gentlemen, you will agree with me that to send Strickland to his death

"Swear them," Judge Dinsmore directed the clerk. "Rise, gentlemen and raise your right hands," the official said. "As they did so he went on: 'You and each of you do solemnly swear in the presence of the ever living God that you will well and truly try the indictment found by the people of the state of New York against Robert Strickland and give a true verdict rendered therein, according to the evidence, so help you God.' Properly sworn, the jurymen resumed their seats. The great battle was now on. 'Proceed, Mr. Gray,' ordered the judge.

CHAPTER II. The Case Against Robert Strickland. GENTLEMEN of the jury, began the prosecutor dramatically, "this case is a very simple one. The facts, as they have appeared from time to time in the newspapers, are no doubt familiar to all of you. I shall outline very briefly the circumstances which we shall put into evidence. Mr. Gerald Trask, as you know, was a prominent banker of this city. He was a distinguished member of the community and occupied important places in the social and financial worlds. 'Among Mr. Trask's acquaintances was Robert Strickland, the defendant.



David Arbuckle, Chief Counsel For the Defense.

At the time they became acquainted Strickland was a rather prosperous business man, and he and Mr. Trask met frequently. Some months ago Strickland began to have business troubles. The cause of these difficulties does not concern us. But what does interest us, gentlemen, is that Strickland, becoming more and more involved, found it necessary to go to his friend, Gerald Trask, for financial assistance.

"Mr. Trask responded with his habitual generosity and promptly loaned Strickland \$10,000, taking the latter's note as security. But Strickland's business didn't improve, and he decided to migrate to the west. The note was payable on June 22, two days before the murder."

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Cut This Out—It Is Worth Money

Cut out this advertisement, enclose 5 cents to Foley & Co., 1835 Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing: (1) Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, the standard family remedy for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, hiccups and soreness in chest, grippe and bronchial coughs. (2) Foley Kidney Pills, for overworked and disordered kidneys and bladder ailments, pain in sides and back due to kidney trouble, sore muscles, stiff joints, backache and rheumatism. (3) Foley Cathartic Tablets, a wholesome and thoroughly cleansing cathartic. Especially comforting to stout persons, and a purgative needed by everybody with sluggish bowels and torpid liver. You can try these three family remedies for only 5c. Sold Everywhere.

During these proceedings the defendant, Strickland, showing by his pallor the effect of his incarceration in the Tombs prison, across the way, awaiting trial, had sat watching every move of the legal luminaries on both sides. At times his hands clenched nervously and he made pronounced efforts to swallow again the muscles about his eyes contracted tensely. He was suffering acutely. Yes, he was suffering as only can a man of education and refinement, one-time head of a happy, prosperous home, who suddenly awakes as from a hideous nightmare to find himself in the dreary predicament now confronting.

Suddenly, to the amazement of all present, as Arbuckle concluded, the ac-



Why don't you sentence me?" he shrieked.

cusSED spring to his feet. Before his counsel could restrain him the prisoner cried hysterically, with outstretched arms: "Your honor, I won't have it. I won't have my little girl dragged into this case. I've pleaded guilty. I'm willing to suffer the consequences."

Judge Dinsmore replied calmly: "Your case is in the hands of your counsel. Be silent and be seated."

"I don't want counsel. I have no defense. Why don't you sentence me? Why—why—" he shrieked. He sat down, sobbing bitterly, as the judge banged his gavel.

(To be Continued)

OUR JITNEY OFFER—This and 5c.

DON'T MISS THIS. Cut out this slip, enclose with five cents to Foley & Co., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, for coughs, colds and croup; Foley Kidney Pills, and Foley Cathartic Tablets. Sold everywhere.

FOR SALE—One of the finest modern, conveniently situated cottages in Plattsmouth. Easy terms given. For particulars address Windham Investment & Loan Co.

Read the want ads in the Journal.

WANTED!

W. A. ROBERTSON, Lawyer. East of Riley Hotel. Coates' Block. Second Floor.

For Sale. 18 horse-power Buffalo Pitts double cylinder engine. Good as new. Will sell it at a bargain; half cash, balance terms to suit. Inquire at this office. 10-7-tfwkly

LIVE POULTRY

A cartload of live poultry to be delivered at car near C. B. & Q. freight depot, Plattsmouth, Neb., on Tuesday, November 30th, one day only. We will pay cash as follows: Hens 11c, Springs 11c, Ducks 11c, Geese 11c, Old Cox 6c. Remember the date. We will be on hand rain or shine and take all poultry offered for sale. W. E. KEENEY.

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION of the FIRST SECURITY BANK of Cedar Creek.

Article 1. The name by which this corporation shall be known is First Security Bank of Cedar Creek, Neb. Article 2. The principal place of business of this corporation shall be at Cedar Creek, county of Cass, State of Nebraska. Article 3. The object for which this corporation is formed is to carry on a commercial banking business under the laws of the State of Nebraska. Article 4. The authorized capital stock of this corporation shall be Ten Thousand Dollars, of which at least Ten Thousand Dollars shall have been paid in at the time of the commencement of business, which shall be issued in shares of the par value of One Hundred (100) Dollars each. No transfer of the stock of this corporation shall be operative until entered on the books of the corporation. Article 5. The indebtedness of this corporation shall at no time exceed the amount of its paid in capital and surplus except for deposits. Article 6. This corporation shall begin business on the 25th day of September, 1915, or as soon thereafter as authorized by the State Banking Board of the State of Nebraska, and shall terminate on the 25th day of September, 1920. Article 7. The affairs of this corporation shall be under the control and management of a board of directors, consisting of not less than five nor more than five shareholders, whose term of office shall be for a period of one year, and shall be successively re-elected and qualified, not less than a majority of whom shall be residents of the county in which the bank is located or counties immediately adjacent thereto. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to elect from their number a president and secretary, and select at least one cashier and assistant cashier and such other clerks and assistants as may be necessary. The corporation may require the terms of office of the officers of this corporation shall be one year, and the officers are elected and qualified. The board of directors may adopt such by-laws for the regulation and management of the affairs and business of the corporation as it may deem proper. Article 8. The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of this corporation shall be held at the Cedar Creek, Neb., on the 15th day of January each year, at which meeting the board of directors shall provide for the election of officers and the payment of dividends. The shareholders of the stock of the corporation shall be entitled to vote in person or by proxy, for each share of the stock held. Article 9. These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose by a two-thirds vote of all the stock.

Officers. MR. Wm. SCHNEIDER, Pres. MR. Wm. H. JOHNSON, Vice-Pres. MR. J. F. FOREMAN, Cashier. Board of Directors. MR. Wm. SCHNEIDER. MR. Wm. H. JOHNSON, FOREMAN. MR. J. F. FOREMAN, Cashier.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the County Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska, in the Estate of James W. Barwick, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that hearings upon all claims against said estate will be had at the office of the County Judge, Court House, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, on the 14th day of December, A. D. 1915, and on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1916, at 10 o'clock a. m. on each of said days. All claims not filed before said hour on said last day of hearing, will be forever barred. Dated this 5th day of November, 1915. By the Court. ALLEN J. BEESON, County Judge. W. A. ROBERTSON, Attorney. 11-1-15

NOTICE OF CHATEL MORTGAGE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a chattel mortgage dated on the 27th day of June, 1915, and filed in the office of the County Clerk of Cass County, Nebraska, on the 31st day of July, 1915, and a certain mortgage dated on the 20th day of January, 1914, and filed in the office of the County Clerk of Cass County, Nebraska, on the 28th day of January, 1914, and executed by John B. Rung to The Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company (an incorporated company of West Minneapolis, Hopkins, P. O., Minnesota), to secure the payment of the sum of Five Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and interest, and Seventeen Hundred One Dollars and interest, respectively, and upon which there is now due the sum of Nine Hundred Twenty-Six and 48-100 Dollars, default has been made in the payment of the said sums and no suit or other proceedings at law having been instituted to recover said debt, or any part thereof, therefore the undersigned will sell the property herein described, viz: One Minneapolis separator with 28-inch cylinder, 46-inch rear, No. 1277; One Minneapolis No. 1271; One Minneapolis No. 553; One Main Drive Belt 129 feet long, 8 inches wide, 4-1/2 inch No. 10; One No. 2385; One 12-barrel Wood Water Tank; One Port Huron 15-H. P. Compound Steam Traction Engine No. 2524; One Locomotive Cab, One Pump and Hose outfit, and one earth lifting jack, at public auction on the Northwest quarter of Section Two (2), Township Ten (10), Range 29, East of the Sixth P. M., adjacent to the town of Alvo, Cass County, Nebraska, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the 4th day of December, A. D. 1915. THE MINNEAPOLIS THRESHING MACHINE COMPANY, Mortgagee. By J. C. Cooper, State Agent. Dated November 11th, 1915. 11-11-15

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—7-room house, 2 lots, barn and outbuildings; 3 blocks from Columbian school. Inquire of Homer Shrader. 11-3-tf-d&w

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Five-room cottage on easy payments. Will take piano as part payment. Windham Investment & Loan Co. 11-20-d&w

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—At a sacrifice, single harness and buggy. Good as new. Call 207-W. 11-22-2td-2tw